



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
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TO: PATRICK OGAWA
Acting Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: PATRICK A. WU 
Senior Assistant County Counsel
Executive Office

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda**
County Claims Board Recommendation
Jaime Topete, et al. v. Los Angeles County
Sheriff's Department, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. KC 058 362

Attached is the Agenda entry for the Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation regarding the above-referenced matter. Also attached is the Case Summary to be made available to the public.

It is requested that this recommendation and the Case Summary be placed on the Board of Supervisors' agenda.

PAW:cs

Attachments

Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Jaime Topete, et al. v. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. KC 058 362 in the amount of \$350,000, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Sheriff's Department's budget.

This negligence lawsuit alleges personal injuries sustained in a vehicle accident involving an on-duty Sheriff's Deputy.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| CASE NAME | <u>Jaime Armando Topete v. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, et al.</u> |
| CASE NUMBER | KC058362 |
| COURT | Los Angeles Superior Court |
| DATE FILED | March 30, 2010 |
| COUNTY DEPARTMENT | Sheriff's Department |
| PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT | \$ 350,000.00 |
| ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF | Law Office of Sassan Mackay |
| COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY | BRIAN T. CHU Principal Deputy County Counsel |
| NATURE OF CASE | <p>This is a motor vehicle negligence lawsuit involving a collision between a Sheriff's Department patrol unit and a Nissan truck on December 6, 2009 at the signalized intersection of Sunset Avenue and Amar Road, in the unincorporated County area of West Puente Valley. The driver of the truck contends that the patrol unit entered the intersection against a red signal, which the County denies and contends that the driver of the truck entered the intersection against a red signal. The plaintiffs are the driver of the truck and his two passengers who were injured in the collision. The spouse of the one passenger also claims loss of consortium damages.</p> <p>Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$350,000 is recommended.</p> |
| PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE | \$ 647,307 |
| PAID COSTS, TO DATE | \$ 446,986 |